(c) if so, the steps proposed by Government to minimize the cost of installation of CCS in the Central and State run power utilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Government after discussing with power utilities have concluded that installation of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) facilities in the power stations is economically not viable due to capital additional cost involved with CO_2 capture, transportation and storage. This would also increase the cost of electricity generation by more than 100% and the residential and industrial consumers may find it unaffordable.

(c) The Government has taken a considered stand that there will be no installation of CCS in the Central and State run power utilities in the short term. However, the Government of India would be ready to depute engineers and scientists of CCS locations abroad for training and capacity building.

Illegal mining in Orissa

†1098. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the fact that a lot of illegal mining work is undergoing in Orissa without forest clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is also aware about the adverse impact of these illegal mining activities on environment; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent it, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The information is being collected from the State Government of Orissa and will be laid on the table of the House after compilation of the same.

Melting of Mt. Kanchanzanga glacier

1099. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mt. Kanchanzanga glacier in Sikkim is receding very fast;

(b) if so, the details of any study conducted in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that fast melting of Mt. Kanchanzanga glacier can cause scarcity of water in the region; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by Government for the conservation of the glacier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The studies conducted by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Geological Survey of India indicate that the Mt. Kanchanzanga glacier in Sikkim is receding for last few decades. However, the rate of recession has been slower in recent times. The study also estimated an annual retreat of 4.15 meters during 1986-2005.

(c) Melting of glacier may increase the run-off the Himalayan Rivers initially but it may ultimately lead to some reduction of water availability in future.

(d) A National Action Plan on Climate Change was launched in June, 2008 which envisages the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system amongst its 8 national missions. This Mission would understand *inter-alia*, the phenomena relating to the recession of the Himalayan glaciers and the ways of addressing the problem.

A new research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun. Guidelines and best practices for the governance for sustaining Himalayan Eco-system has been developed and shared with all State Governments in the Himalayan Region.

Replacement of Mullaperiyar Dam

1100. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the backgrounds and consideration that have over weighed the Ministry to give clearance for Kerala Government for undertaking a fresh survey for constructing a new dam in the place of existing Mullaperiyar Dam when the issues of dispute are pending before the Supreme Court of India;

(b) the bigwigs and other Ministries consulted before giving the clearance; and

(c) whether the Minister formally or informally consulted Tamil Nadu Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife, which is chaired by the Hon'ble Minister, In-charge of Ministry of Environment and Forests, considers the proposals involving diversion of forest area in the Protection Areas (National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries etc.) received from the State/UT Governments in the prescribed format. The proposal of Mullaperiyar dam was submitted by the State Government of Kerala in prescribed format seeking permission for carrying out survey and investigation. After detailed discussion and considering the fact that the old dam was 113 years old, weak and could cause serious disaster in future, the Standing Committee unanimously recommended the proposal for survey and investigation subject to compliance of conditions envisaged by the Chief Wildlife Warden and without, in any way, affecting any other legal and administrative clearances required.

No information about the dispute with State of Tamil Nadu or any case in the matter pending before Hon'ble Supreme Court was mentioned in the proposal.